

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SSO-00

CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SCCT-01 AID-05 /078 W  
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R 030212Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2245

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5521

FOL TEL FROM SONGKHLA DATED 2 APR SENT ACTION BANGKOK  
PRIORITY REPEATED FOR UR INFO

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SONGKHLA 046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, TH

SUBJECT: NAKHON SI THAMMARAT DEMONSTRATION

REF: SONGKHLA 011

SUMMARY: APPROXIMATELY 1,000 STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS IN  
NAKHON SI THAMMARAT ARE PROTESTING THE ARREST OF 17 PERSONS  
CHARGED WITH A MULTITUDE OF CRIMES OVER THE BURNING OF THE  
GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE JANUARY 22. EVERYONE IS GETTING INTO  
THE ACT. MUTUAL SUSPICIONS COMPLICATE A RESOLUTION OF THE  
CONFRONTATION, BUT BANGKOK'S ATTENTION WILL PROBABLY BRING  
THE NECESSARY COMPROMISE. END SUMMARY

1. TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (TTC) STUDENTS FORM THE BULK  
OF THE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 DEMONSTRATORS WHO MOVED FROM THE  
TTC INTO THE NAKHON SI THAMMARAT (NST) PROVINCIAL CAPITAL THE  
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AFTERNOON OF APRIL 1. THE DEMONSTRATION IS CAMPED IN FRONT

OF POLICE REGION 8 HEADQUARTERS. MOST OF THE STUDENTS GO TO NIGHT CLASSES. DAY SESSION STUDENTS ARE ON VACATION. OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANT WHO VIEWED THE SCENE REPORTS THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE DEMONSTRATION.

2. THE DEMONSTRATORS DEMAND THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR DETAINED TTC LECTURERS AND SURICHA SAE DAN, A 27 YEAR OLD RADIO REPAIRMAN. THE VIEW OF THE TTC PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANT, IS THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND SIMILAR CHARGES DEAL WITH A CRIMINAL MATTER, BUT THE INCITING TO RIOT CHARGES DIRECTED AT THE TEACHERS ARE POLITICAL HARRASSMENT.

3. THE POLICE POINT OUT THAT THEY COMPLETED THEIR INVESTIGATION AND FORWARDED IT TO BANGKOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS. THE INTERIM DEMOCRAT-SOCIAL AGRARIAN CABINET SHELVED THE REPORT PROBABLY BECAUSE NST IS A DEMOCRAT STRONGHOLD. MIDDLE GRADE POLICE OFFICIALS TOLD OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANT THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR BUNTHENG THONGSAWAT APPROVED THE ARREST ORDERS.

4. MUTUAL SUSPICIONS CLOUD RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE. THE PROVINCIAL POLICE ARE UPSET OVER THE INFLUX OF POLITICIANS AND ACTIVISTS. THE SOCIALIST, SOCIALIST FRONT, NEW FORCE AND DEMOCRAT PARTIES HAVE PARTY OFFICIALS OR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE SPOT ADDRESSING THE CROWD. SAMAN LOETWONGHAT, PRESIDENT OF THE THAMMASAT STUDENT UNION, WIRAT SAKCHIRAPHAPHONG, FORMER NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SOMPROTKARANAT FROM THE TEACHERS' PROTECTION CENTER OF THAILAND HAVE ALSO SLUNG THEIR VERBAL ARROWS. THESE PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ORGANIZATION OF A PROTEST COMMAND CENTER IN FRONT OF POLICE REGION 8 HEADQUARTERS WHICH IS EQUIPED WITH SIGNS AND MIMEOGRAPH.

5. THE TTC STUDENTS AND LECTURERS SEE THE ARRESTS AS A GOVERNMENT TEST OF THE NATIONAL ATMOSPHERE. THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROLE OF POLICE GENERAL CHUMPHON LOHACHALA WHO IS NOW RELATED TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR BUNLOET LOETPRICHA THROUGH THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR OFFSPRING. THEY SEE CHUMPHON'S INVOLVEMENT AS A SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT. THE TTC PEOPLE ALSO EMOTIONALLY REACT TO THE PRESENCE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL

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MONCHAI PHANKHONCHAM IN CHUMPHON'S PARTY WHOM THEY ASSOCIATE WITH THE VIOLENCE OF OCTOBER 1973.

6. COMMENT: UNDER ORDERS FROM PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT POLICE CHIEF PHOT PEKKANAN IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN NST ON APRIL 2. DESPITE THE RESIDENT EMOTIONALISM AND MUTUAL SUSPICIONS, SUCH HIGH LEVEL BANGKOK INTEREST WILL PROBABLY QUIET THE SITUATION IF SOME QUICK COMPROMISE RESULTS.

REUTHER  
UNQUOTE.  
MASTERS

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## Message Attributes

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